

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 27, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HALE made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 221.]

The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of A. T. Spencer and G. S. Hubbard, of Chicago, Illinois, praying compensation for services performed in carrying the mails on their line of steamers between Chicago and the ports on Lake Superior, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:

The memorialists represent that they transported, at the request of the postmasters and agents of the Post Office Department, the United States mails, in steamboats, between the city of Chicago, Illinois, and the several ports on Lake Superior, from the year 1854, to the present time, during the season of navigation, for which they have not been compensated, and they now pray that Congress will allow them a fair and equitable remuneration for the said service.

They further represent that this service was performed in contemplation of an allowance to be made to them equal to that awarded by the government for service of a similar character, and the distinct assurance of the agents of the Post Office Department was given to them that they would be adequately compensated therefor.

The evidence before the committee of the faithful and efficient character of the service rendered by the memorialists is clear and satisfactory; and that it was undertaken and performed at the request of the government officials having charge of the mails.

Most satisfactory proof of the performance of the service is to be found in the testimony of Captains J. E. Turner, John Wilson, and B. G. Sweet, confirmed by the affidavits of the postmasters at Chicago, Milwaukee, Mackinac, Marquette, Eagle River, Ontonagon, and La Pointe. This evidence, coming from men of character and experience, entirely conversant with all the facts connected with the transportation of the mails on the route, is such as the committee are disposed to place the fullest reliance in as substantiating the facts alleged by the memorialists.

The evidence being somewhat voluminous, the committee will not burden the Senate with its full publication, but will solicit its attention to the explicit affidavit of Captain J. E. Turner, appended to this report, marked exhibit E.

The witnesses generally concur in the statement set forth in the petition that the service was performed by the memorialists at times under circumstances of great hazard to life and property ; and it is the unanimous opinion of the committee that they should receive compensation proportionate to the service rendered and the danger incurred.

The committee are satisfied that the steamers belonging to the line owned by the memorialists, afford the most expeditious and reliable means for the transportation of the mails between the city of Chicago and the several ports on Lake Superior ; and moreover, that it was through their agency that the inhabitants of a remotely located country were furnished with their semi-monthly mails from that point, during the season of navigation, since the year 1854.

From all the evidence in the case, and from the statements of reliable persons having a personal knowledge of the facts, the committee are confident that the service for which compensation is sought was actually and faithfully performed ; that the interest of a large and active business community engaged in the development of an important source of national wealth, required the performance of the service rendered by the memorialists, and for which they have received no compensation.

In view of the facts in the case, the committee believe that a bill should be passed instructing the Postmaster General to settle the claim of the memorialists, upon the principle of a compensation equal to that paid for like service of the United States ; and they report a bill accordingly, and recommend its passage.

E.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *County of Washington:*

Before the undersigned, C. W. C. Dunnington, a justice of the peace in and for the county and district aforesaid, personally appeared Captain John E. Turner, captain of the steamers *Northerner* and *Iron City*, running between Detroit and Lake Superior, who, being duly sworn, depose and saith, that he is well acquainted with the trade on Lake Superior connected with steamboating, having been formerly, viz: in the year 1855, commander of the steamer *Northerner*, and since then to the present time commander of the steamer *Iron City* ; that he knows well the steamers *Superior* and *Lady Elgin* ; that he is cognizant of the fact, that during the years 1854, 1855, and 1856 the former, and during the years 1856, 1857, 1858, and 1859 the latter, did carry, during the period of navigation, the United States mail between Chicago and the ports on Lake Superior ; that service was performed at the request of the agents of the Post Office Department of the United States ; that it was done at great risk and expense to the steamers aforesaid ; that the bulk of it was sometimes large, and equal to that stated in the memorial of the owner of the said steamer directed to the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States, which he has carefully read ; and to the truth of the allegations made in said memo-

rial he hereby makes oath, having carefully read the same, and compared them to the facts to him personally known; the said memorial being the one marked No. 1, and certified to, by the undersigned justice of the peace aforesaid, as the one read to this deponent before making this affidavit.

J. E. TURNER.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 14th day of February, 1860.

C. W. C. DUNNINGTON,

Justice of the Peace.

